

**WHEAT SCAM }**

# Commended against d supply inspectors

for legal action against food inspectors Vivek Gupta and Bhupinder Singh.

Bishambhu said, "Also, a departmental inquiry was recommended against two other inspectors Vikas Sethi and Rajeshwar Singh to probe their role in the scam to the tune of ₹5 crore." While Vivek Gupta declined to comment, Bhupinder Singh claimed that he had no role in the alleged rip-off as he was posted in the Fatudhinga area of Sultanpur Lodhi sub-division.

Food and civil supplies minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu had

suspended four food inspectors for not disbursing wheat to eligible beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act.

Bishambhu conducted a probe after Sultanpur Lodhi MLA Navtej Singh Cheema and members of the Kisan Union lodged multiple complaints over non-disbursement of wheat from October 2020 to March 2021 to beneficiaries. It was found that the department's Sultanpur Lodhi centre didn't provide records of wheat distribution to inspection teams despite repeated orders.

stance during a protest outside the special task force (STF)'s Amritsar office the next day, alleging police harassment. He was admitted to a private hospital.

Masih was supposed to present himself in the court on Monday, but the hearing was adjourned for a day. "The court issued his arrest warrant after Masih didn't turn up on Tuesday. He is now absconding and our teams are working to nab him," said STF deputy superintendent of police Vawinder Mahajan.

The STF had recovered the contraband from a house owned by Masih at the instance of one Sukhbir Singh alias Happy, who was arrested with 6-kg heroin in Mohali.

Masih had rented out his house to another accused Sukhwinder Singh since December 2019. The STF had claimed that Masih was taking Rs 80,000 monthly rent from the accused and was aware of the fact that a drug smuggling racket was being run on his premises.

# Patiala Cong leaders locked in war of words

**HT Correspondent**

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**PATIALA:** City mayor Sanjiv Bittu and PUNSUP vice-chairman Krishan Kumar Budhu are indulging in a war of words against each other, exposing the factionalism in the district unit of the Congress. Bittu is a protégé of MP Preet Kaur, while Budhu is considered close to BIS Chahal, adviser to Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh. Preet is the wife of Amarinder.

In a letter to Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, Budhu has accused the mayor of corruption, misusing of power in awarding contracts and of promoting illegal construction.


"I decided to rake up issue, as corruption is denting the image of Congress in the city of the CM.

It is my moral duty to raise voice against such leaders," alleges the letter.

In response, the mayor has said, "Bidhu is a frustrated leader and is levelling baseless charges." District Congress committee president KK Malhotra and PRTC chairman KK Sharma have come out in Bittu's support. They claimed that Budhu was indulging in anti-party activities.

On Tuesday evening, Budhu issued another press release and said that Malhotra and Sharma had no moral right to demand action against him, as both leaders had worked against party candidate Brahm Mohindra in the 1997 elections.

"All these three leaders are surviving in politics by pleasing the members of the royal family. The state Congress unit must act against them," he said.



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**U.K. Sharma**  
President

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

**SUKHJINDER** Kaur W/o Sarbjit Singh R/o #862, Phase 3B2, Mohali SAS Nagar, Punjab have changed my name from Sukhjinder Kaur to Reet Sidhu

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